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Observations on netted septa in vessels of Tecoma radicans.—In the Centralblatt for 1888 (xxxv. 27), Dr. O. S. Petersen in a brief article, "Über Quernetze in Gefässen," quoted E. Praël's notice of peculiar netted septa across the vessels of Cordia Myxa, and remarks that he had also found the same appearance in Bougainvillæa spectabilis, but that he had seen no other notice of this object except the one published in "Transactions and Proceedings of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh" (XIV. 121–123) by Professor Dickson, who observed it in Bougainvillæa glabra and Testudinaria elephantipes, with characteristics identical with the others described, except that Professor Dickson saw it with the meshes closed, Mr. Praël and Dr. Petersen with the meshes open. As Dr. Petersen's object in writing his note on it was to call attention to the subject and to bring out the record of similar observations, I venture to mention that I have often seen these netted septa in the large vessels of Tecoma radicans, in transverse and radial sections and in the macerated wood, but of the existence of which I find no mention in Hovelacque's very elaborate and carefully worked out paper on Tecoma in his "Recherches sur l'appareil végétatif des Bignoniacées, Rhinanthacées Orobanchées et Utriculariées." They occur not only in the outside normal wood but also in the inner wood formed in the pith, one section sometimes showing in the microscopic field three vessels with these septa across them. I have found them in stems of several years growth and also in the sixth internode of a young shoot, grown in winter by putting some stems, cut from out of doors, in a jar of water and setting them in a warm green-house for three weeks. So far as I have seen, these septa are similar in appearance with those found by Mr. Praël in Cordia Myxa and pictured by him in Pringsheim's Jahrbücher, vol. xix, except that the meshes are rounder and more regular in outline. By treatment with saffranin, I have proved them to be entirely open, for all the lignified cell walls of the section and the strands forming the network of septa were deeply stained while the area of each mesh was perfectly colorless. Dr. H. Solereder, in his work "Über den Systematischen Wert der Holzstructur bei den Dicotyledonen" (p. 17), describes some anomalous forms of septa observed in certain Rosaceæ and Compositæ, but mentions those of Epacris as especially worthy of note, inasmuch as they remind him of the appearance of a sieve plate. I could obtain but one species of this, Epacris paludosa, but so far my search for anything very unusual in its septa has been without result.—O. RODHAM, *Berlin, Germany.*

EDITORIAL.

A BOTANICAL CONGRESS on American soil is yet a thing of the future. Probably there is not an American botanist who does not think that such a gathering would be in the highest degree desirable, provided a considerable number of representative botanists from Europe could be induced to attend. The presence here of a body of foreign leaders in the science would in itself be an interesting event, and could not fail to have an influence in extending and strengthening the science in this country.

Meetings of this nature are not infrequent in Europe, at which there is usually a fair attendance. But American and European distances are so greatly disproportionate that the single item of travel almost debars all thought of attempting to arrange an international congress with any reasonable hope of securing a satisfactory representation from different foreign countries.

If the purpose is ever accomplished there must be some additional attraction which can be urged in connection with the congress in order to afford a sufficient return for the outlay of time and money required of transatlantic visitors.

Why not make the World's Fair of 1893 the background for such a rally? There is no prospect of a greater attraction for years to come; American botanists are united, and properly organized; and the time is ample for preparation. Will the readers of the GAZETTE express their opinions? Our columns are open to a discussion of the matter.

The good that such a congress can do is not confined to personal enjoyment and the stimulus of direct intercourse, although that may be a delightful and valuable feature of the meeting, but there are important questions affecting the advancement of the science and the whole body of working botanists that can only be settled by a gathering of this kind. Such a question, or rather series of questions, is that of nomenclature, which to straighten out would be worth the effort put forth, even were nothing else accomplished. Questions of identity with their European representatives of many American species of plants difficult to preserve in herbaria, such as the fleshy fungi, can be settled in no way so well as by a conference of specialists with specimens in hand. Questions in geographical botany, methods of physiological research, and a host of lesser problems will present themselves for solution or discussion.

It seems to us that here is a great opportunity, a chance for an epoch-making movement for botany in America. If this should be the opinion of the majority of American botanists, we do not doubt that ways can be devised for making the suggestion a reality.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Minor Notices.

MRS. E. G. BRITTON writes pleasantly in the February number of the *Microscope* on several mosses found growing in winter in a garden as an "Introduction to the study of mosses."

A SMALL GROUP of ascomycetous fungi, known as *Laboulbeniaceæ,* and